

WE CLAIM:

1. In combination with a whirlpool bathtub, said whirlpool bathtub having a tub, the tub having an inside surface, a closed loop plumbing system, a water pump and 5 output jets, the improvement comprising:

a housing assembly having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount to an inside of a tub, below a fill line of the tub;

said housing assembly having an input orifice and an 10 output orifice, and a shape to enable drainage;

said input orifice having a vertically oriented porous pop off faceplate;

a removable filter located rearward of a front surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said 15 input orifice;

a chemical dispenser located rearward of said front surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said input orifice;

wherein said chemical dispenser houses a chemical, 20 thereby providing a suction device to take water in the tub, and to pass water through said filter and said chemical dispenser; and

wherein said chemical dispenser has one or more 25 openings to release said chemical when contacted with water.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction device further comprises means functioning to provide an indicator that said filter and/or said chemical dispenser require replacement.

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3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction device further comprises means functioning to inhibit a suction force caused by said pump if said faceplate is missing or of said faceplate is improperly attached to said 10 housing assembly.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction device further comprises means functioning to inhibit a suction force caused by said pump if said filter is missing 15 or if said filter is improperly inserted into said housing assembly.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser further comprises one or more adjustable openings 20 to release a metered dose of said chemical housed therein into said water.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, said chemical dispenser further comprising one or more openings to permit said 25 chemical housed in said chemical dispenser to exit said chemical dispenser when contacted with water.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said one or more openings may vary in size, configuration, and location.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical 5 dispenser is in axial alignment with said faceplate.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing assembly, said faceplate, said filter, and said chemical dispenser retains less than 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of water after a 10 drain down of said whirlpool bathtub.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser has a length of less than about 8 inches.

15 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical dispenser has a diameter of less than about 2 inches.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said suction device, filter, and chemical dispenser allow for a water 20 flow of more than 200 gallons per minute.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said filter is treated with antimicrobial additives.

25 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said filter is non-pleated.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said faceplate further comprises a pop off design, whereby a tool is not required to remove it.

5 16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chemical inhibits bacteria between whirlpool bathtub usages without said pump being activated or said water being present in said tub.

10 17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said filter retains less than about 3 ounces of water after a drain down of said whirlpool bathtub.

15 18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further comprises at least one cavitation opening located rearward of said faceplate.

20 19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further comprises means functioning to dispense a liquid chemical into said water to inhibit bacteria growth in said whirlpool bathtub.

20. A combination purification device and suction device comprising:

25 a housing assembly having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount on an inside surface of a whirlpool bathtub, below a fill line of the whirlpool bathtub;

wherein said housing assembly is attached to a suction line of said whirlpool bathtub; the housing assembly having an input orifice and an output orifice, and a shape to enable drainage; 5 said input orifice having a vertically orientated porous faceplate; a removable filter located rearward of the front surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said input orifice; 10 a removable chemical dispenser located rearward of the front surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said input orifice; said chemical dispenser housing a chemical, thereby providing a suction device to take water in the 15 whirlpool bathtub, and to pass water through said filter and said chemical dispenser; wherein said chemical dispenser has one or more openings to release said chemical into the suction line of said whirlpool bathtub when contacted with water; and 20 wherein the chemical inhibits a growth of bacteria in said whirlpool bathtub.

21. In combination with a whirlpool bathtub, said 25 whirlpool bathtub having a tub, the tub having an inside surface, a closed loop plumbing system, a water pump and output jets, the improvement comprising:

a housing assembly having a mounting surface for providing a flush mount on an inside surface of a whirlpool bathtub, below a fill line of the whirlpool bathtub;

5 said housing assembly having an input orifice and an output orifice, and a shape to enable drainage; said input orifice having a vertically orientated porous faceplate;

a removable filter located rearward of the front 10 surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said input orifice;

a chemical dispenser located rearward of the front surface of said faceplate and adjacent to said input orifice;

15 wherein said chemical dispenser houses a replenishable chemical;

wherein said chemical dispenser has one or more openings to release said chemical into a suction line of said closed loop plumbing system when contacted with water, not only when said 20 whirlpool bath is activated; and

wherein said chemical inhibits a growth of bacteria in said whirlpool bathtub.